



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAFAEL CARRILLO RIOS PLEADS GUILTY TO KIDNAPPING CHARGE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Del Rio, the leader of a marijuana smuggling operation based in Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico, faces between 20 years and life in federal prison after pleading guilty this morning to ordering the kidnapping of three juveniles who purportedly stole a large quantity of marijuana from him.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge Victor Roberto Garcia, 27-year-old Rafael Carrillo Rios pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to kidnap. The juveniles were kidnapped in Del Rio, Texas, and were transported across the international border to Ciudad Acuna where they were held captive and beaten. In addition, one of the juveniles reported that his hand had been struck with a hammer and that he had been shot several times with a BB gun. After having been held for between 12 and 36 hours, the juveniles were ultimately released back in Del Rio.

Rios remains in federal custody. Sentencing is scheduled for January 6, 2006, in Del Rio before United States District Judge William Wayne Justice.

This case was investigated by the United States Immigration & Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney John A. Peralta is prosecuting the case on behalf of the Government.

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